

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 OSLO 02220 051302Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----025919 051303Z /72

O R 051248Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY OSLO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5760
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L OSLO 2220

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, ENRG, NO, UR
SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE ON OIL MORATORIUM OFFER

REFS: (A) OSLO 2202 (B) OSLO 1201

1. IN A CONVERSATION EVENING OF MAY 3 WITH DCM, FOREIGN MINISTER FRYDENLUND EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE POSSIBLE PRESS PLAY OF THE OIL MORATORIUM WHICH NORWAY OFFERED THE USSR IN 1975 (REFTEL). FRYDENLUND STATED THAT HE WAS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT NORWAY HAD TOLD THE USG ABOUT THE OFFER AT THE TIME, BUT IN ANY CASE HE FEARED THAT NOW WE WOULD SEE PRESS STORIES TO THE EFFECT THAT NORWAY HAD NOT INFORMED HER ALLIES ABOUT THE OFFER. THIS HE ASSERTED WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL.

2. IN REPLY, DCM NOTED THAT AS FAR AS WE COULD TELL FROM EXTANT EMBASSY FILES, WE HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF THE NORWEGIAN MORATORIUM OFFER. HOWEVER, THE USG DID NOT SEEK PUBLICLY TO EMBARRASS THE GON OVER THE ISSUE. DCM STATED THAT THOUGH

WE HAD NOT YET BEEN CONTACTED BY THE PRESS, AND HAD NOT YET CHECKED WITH WASHINGTON, WE WERE GOING TO RECOMMEND A RESPONSE TO THE PRESS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:
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-- AS IS KNOWN, THE US AND NORWAY HAVE REGULAR CONSULTATIONS AND EXCHANGES OF VIEWS AT VARIOUS LEVELS AND ON VARIOUS SUBJECTS;

-- IT WAS IN THE NATURE OF THESE TALKS THAT THEY WERE CONSIDERED BY BOTH SIDES TO BE CONFIDENTIAL;

-- THEREFORE THE USG DID NOT THINK IT APPROPRIATE TO COMMENT
ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THESE CONSULTATIONS.

3. COMMENT: IN LIGHT OF THE GON'S GREAT SENSITIVITY ABOUT THE
PRESS LEAK FLAP IN MARCH (OSLO 1201 AND PREVIOUS) WE BELIEVE
THAT ANY DISSATISFACTION WE MAY FEEL AT NOT BEING INFORMED
ABOUT THE MORATORIUM SHOULD BE EXPRESSED, AS IT ALREADY
HAS BEEN HERE, IN PRIVATE LOW KEY CONVERSATIONS WITH THE GON.
NEITHER WE NOR THE GON WOULD BENEFIT FROM ANOTHER PUBLIC
SHOUTING MATCH ABOUT US CONFIDENCE IN THE GON'S DEALINGS
WITH THE SOVIET UNION.

4. UNLESS WASHINGTON HAS OBJECTIONS, WE WILL ADHERE TO THE
GENERAL PRESS LINE IN PARA TWO ABOVE IF AND WHEN THE PRESS ASKS.
LERNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Draft Date: 05 may 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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ISecure: 1
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